

new arrangement, which is necessary for
safety, does not
increase comfort, for the Arab horses, noisy,
quarrelsome
fellows, are in camp, and the mules shake
their bells and
sneeze and bray at intervals all night.

The descent of 2000 feet into the
Shamisiri valley,
over bare gravel chiefly, was a very hot
one. It is a
wide, open valley with stony hills of no great
height enclosing it, with much green sward along the
river banks,
above which, running to a great height on
the hillsides,
are stretches of irrigated wheat. So far as
I have yet
seen, the wheat is all " bearded." It is a
most smiling
valley; so cultivated, indeed, and so trim and
free from
weeds are the crops, that one naturally looks
for neat
farm-houses and barns. But one looks in
vain, for
except the ruins of some Armenian villages
there are no
traces of inhabitants, till night comes, when
the glimmer
of camp fires here and there high up on the
hillsides
shows the whereabouts of some migratory
families.

I start so early as to get in to the camping-
ground
about nine now, and the caravan, two hours
later, comes
in with mules braying, bells ringing,
horses squeal-
ing for a fight, servants shouting. Then the
mules roll,
the tent-pegs are hammered down, and in the
blazing,
furnace-like afternoons the men, who have
been up since
2 A.M., take a prolonged siesta, and a
solemn hush falls
on the camp. After the Gorab affair I
loaded my
revolver, and now sleep with it under my
pillow, carry it

in my holster, and never have it out of my reach. I

think I should only fire it in the air if I were attacked,

but the fact of being known to be armed with such a

weapon is more likely than anything else to prevent

attack. *No* halt is now made on the march.

The sick people who appeared at Shamisiri, from no

ie knows where, were difficult and suspicious, and so

"y have been since. The dialect of

Persian has some-